

Robotics and Automation Council  
Council Minutes: 3/30/87

Book

IEEE ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATION COUNCIL

ADCOM MEETING, 30 MARCH 1987

The meeting was called to order by President Bejczy at 1:35 pm.

1. LIST OF ATTENDEES

A.K. Bejczy, President  
R.P. Paul, Past President  
Y.C. Ho, Vice President  
H.E. Stephanou, Secretary  
R.D. Klafter, Treasurer  
G.A. Bekey, Journal Editor  
G.N. Saridis, Awards Committee Chairman  
R.B. Kelley, Publications Committee Chairman  
L.S. Haynes, Standards Committee Chairman  
A.A. Desrochers, Education Committee Chairman  
R.J.P. de Figueiredo, Circuits and Systems Society  
W.J. Trybula, Components, Hybrids & Manufacturing Tech. Society  
W.E.L. Grimson, Computer Society  
W.E. Snyder, Computer Society  
J. Baillieul, Control Systems Society  
A.J. Koivo, Control Systems Society  
A.C. Sanderson, 1987 Conference Program Chairman  
H.W. Mergler, Division X Director

2. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The meeting agenda was unanimously adopted (Bejczy, Grimson).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the CRA ADCOM meeting held on September 29, 1986 at the Milwaukee Hyatt Regency were unanimously approved (Paul, Klafter).

4. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

4.1 1987 Conference

The general chairman, Larry Ho, reported that there were already over 500 registrations, and that a surplus of about \$20,000 was expected. The program chairman, Art Sanderson reported that 522 contributed and invited papers had been submitted. 50% of the contributed papers (64% overall) were accepted.

Bejczy reiterated the need to keep emphasizing topics in industrial automation for future conferences. The consensus of the Adcom was that automation represents the long term investment of the Council.

The Adcom unanimously approved a motion (Paul, Kelley) thanking Ho, Anderson, and Snyder (local arrangements chairman) for their efforts in organizing the 1987 Conference.

#### 4.2 Treasurer

Klafter reported that the cash balance of the RAC was \$231,600 as of 31 January 1987. This sum is currently invested in Treasury Bills. Klafter was asked to prepare a proposal for possible alternative forms of investment, and present it at the next Adcom meeting. In response to some questions, Klafter and Saridis indicated that the RAC has paid back all its debts, and does not owe money to any parent society. A motion to approve the treasurer's report (Kelley, Paul) was unanimously approved.

#### 4.3 Standards Committee

Haynes requested the appointment of a new chairman for the standards committee. A mail vote will be conducted. A motion (Trybula, Baillieul) to appoint Haynes as liaison with the RIA standards committee was unanimously approved. Haynes was encouraged to write an article for the RAC newsletter.

#### 4.4 Education Committee

Desrochers reported that there were 3 tutorial tracks, and that all sessions were well attended.

#### 4.5 Awards Committee

Saridis recommended against the Council's participation in the Judith Resnick award, as this has been already handled by the Control Systems society. The Adcom received favorably Saridis' idea to establish best paper awards for the Journal and Conference. A proposal will be prepared, and submitted for mail ballot.

#### 4.6 New Committees

Ho proposed the formation of technical committees. The areas of activity would be along a structure parallel to that of the Journal associate editors. The role of the TC's would be to review conference papers, promote invited papers, promote workshops, etc.

Several Adcom members endorsed the idea, pointing out that it would contribute some needed decentralization in a diverse field. The main argument against the immediate implementation of the proposal was based on the fact that the RAC does not have members, and therefore cannot have TC's. A motion (Snyder, Stephanou) asking Ho to prepare a formal proposal about the format for a Technical Committee structure within the RAC was unanimously approved. It was also suggested that Ho interact with Pavlidis, Chairman of the meetings committee.

## 5. ACTION ITEMS

### 5.1 Journal Expansion

Bekey, Editor of the Robotics and Automation Journal, reported that some 250 manuscripts have been received in 1987. About 30 to 40% have been accepted. The Journal is currently published at the rate of 6 issues per year, with 80 pages per issue. Initially, there were too many papers on dynamics and control, but this "problem" seems to have corrected itself. Bekey also reported a substantial backlog of papers accepted for publication.

The Adcom unanimously approved a motion (Baillieul, Trybula) authorizing the Editor to increase the total number of pages for 1987 to a maximum of 672. The motion also stipulates that the total publication cost for 1987 is not to exceed \$140,000, and should be covered by the current subscription fees.

The Adcom also approved, unanimously, a motion (Ho, Snyder) to increase the approved level of editorial expenses to \$17,500 for 1987. This sum includes about \$2500 in mailing costs, and \$15,000 in secretarial support (75% support for Bekey's secretary in lieu of the previous 25%, retroactive to 1 January 1987).

For 1988, the Adcom approved (with one dissenting vote) a motion (Kelley, Ho) authorizing a maximum of 672 Journal pages, and 64 newsletter pages (4 issues). The motion also stipulates that Klafter and Bekey are to raise an additional income of \$10,000 to cover the additional expenses, and report back to the Council before 15 June, 1987. They should consider the option of raising the subscription fee for members of parents societies from the current \$10/year to a maximum of \$15/year, but avoid raising the \$15/year fee for IEEE members who do not belong to any of the parent societies.

The Adcom approved a motion (Grimson, Kelley) authorizing the journal editor to spend \$500 to purchase IEEE directories for the associate editors.

## 5.2 Newsletter

Snyder, the newsletter editor, reported that the current newsletter printing and mailing costs are \$4500 per issue, excluding any labor. The Adcom unanimously approved a motion (Paul, Grimson) to approve a newsletter budget of \$16,500 for 1987. This includes \$9,000 printing and mailing costs for 2 issues, 16 pages each, and \$7,500 labor costs for editorial help, retroactive to January 1, 1987. Snyder will prepare a proposal for the 1988 budget, and present it at the next Adcom meeting. Several items were suggested by Adcom members for inclusion in the newsletter. These include PhD dissertation abstracts, articles on standards, and industry/university relations, reports on conferences, and tutorials. It was also suggested that an editorial committee should be formed, and that advertisements be included in the newsletter.

## 5.3 1989 and 1990 Conferences

The Adcom unanimously approved a motion (Paul, Grimson) appointing George Bekey (USC) General Chairman and John Hollerbach (MIT) Program Chairman for the 1989 Conference. The Adcom also approved, unanimously, a motion (Paul, Kelley) appointing Richard Volz (University of Michigan) General Chairman and Antti Koivo (Purdue) Program Chairman for the 1990 Conference. A.L. Pai (Arizona State University) made a presentation proposing Phoenix as the site of the 1989 conference. Sites will be selected by the conference chairmen.

## 5.4 Survey for Transition to Society

The Adcom unanimously approved a motion (Kelley, Grimson) authorizing Bejczy to spend \$15,000 to conduct a survey for the transition of the Council to a Society. The proposed format of the survey was approved, with a suggestion that a deadline for returning the questionnaire be specified.

## 5.5 Appointment of Committee Chairpersons

The Adcom unanimously approved a motion (Trybula, Baillieul) to reappoint all current committee chairpersons.

## 5.6 Co-sponsorship of Symposia

The Adcom unanimously approved a motion (Ho, Trybula) to co-sponsor the 1988 IEEE Symposium on Intelligent Control, without any financial obligation to the Council.

The Adcom unanimously approved a motion (Baillieul, Trybula) to co-sponsor the 1987 SPIE Symposium on Advances in Intelligent Robotic Systems, without any financial obligation to the Council. Rui de Figueiredo was asked to serve as liaison with this symposium.

#### 5.7 IFAC Survey

The Adcom unanimously approved a motion (Grimson, Baillieul) authorizing Bejczy to provide a minor amount (less than \$1,000) of financial aid for an IFAC survey on educational robotics. The results of the survey will be published in the Council's newsletter.

#### 5.8 Length of Terms of Office

The Adcom unanimously approved a motion (Trybula, Koivp) to table the discussion about extending the length of term of office for the Council president and vice-president until the results of the survey on the transition to a society are available.

#### 6. NEXT MEETING

The Adcom unanimously approved a motion (Paul, Kelley) to hold the next Adcom meeting during the week of November 2-6 in conjunction with IECON 1987, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The exact date and location will be finalized no later than June 1987.

#### 7. ADJOURNMENT

The Adcom meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

*4/13/87*  
IEEE ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATION COUNCIL

April 1987

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